

Chairman Sanford, Members of the committee: For the record, I am Al LaFave, President of Valley City State University.

THANK YOU for your service and the opportunity for us to visit with you about the successes of VCSU this past biennium and our aspirations for the future.

We are extremely GRATEFUL for your support

I would also like to express my thanks to:

- State Board of Higher Education members, Chair Hacker, Chancellor Hagerott and the NDUS system office staff
- Mayor Dave Carlsrud, Superintendent Josh Johnson, Jennifer Feist, Director of development for the Valley City – Barnes County development corporation, Bill Carbloom, Barnes County Commission Chair
- VCSU student leadership and senate
- President's Cabinet Leadership Team and Faculty and Staff from VCSU
- VCSU alumni



Mission and Vision

Our Mission

VCSU is a public, regional university offering exceptional programs in an active, learner-centered community that promotes meaningful scholarship, ethical service, and the skilled use of technology.

As an important knowledge resource, the university offers programs and outreach that enrich the quality of life in North Dakota and beyond.

Through flexible, accessible, and innovative baccalaureate and master's programs, VCSU prepares students to succeed as educators, leaders, and engaged citizens in an increasingly complex and diverse society

Our Vision

As an innovative university, we deliver distinctive, learner-centered experiences.



We are:

- Student-centered environment
- High-quality, high-impact experience
- Dedicated faculty and staff
- Supportive alumni and community
- Innovative, can-do attitude
- Need for continued investment in people and infrastructure



Academic Centers

- Prairie Waters Education and Research Center
- Don Mugan CTE Leadership Center
- Great Plains STEM Education Center

VCSU is proud to host three academic centers providing vital services for North Dakota:

PRAIRIE WATERS EDUCATION AND RESEARCH CENTER

- Provides environmental education and research opportunities for students, teachers and professionals in ND....connecting K-12 students with water resources in classroom and field experiences...
- Water-sampling certification workshops for state employees
- Contract research for state agencies including the Department of Health and ND Game and Fish.

DON MUGAN CTE LEADERSHIP CENTER

- Vehicle for recruitment, retention and succession of career and technical education teachers and administrators
- Peder Gjovik, pictured above, was named the Association for Career and Technical Education Teacher Educator of the year!

GREAT PLAINS STEM EDUCATION CENTER

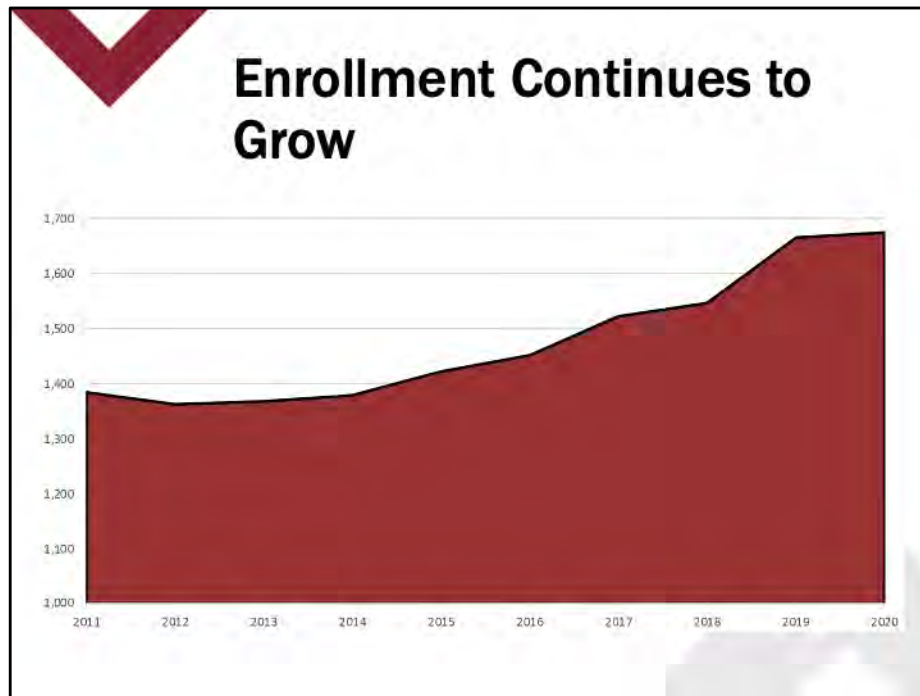
- Provides professional development programs for K-12 teachers and administrators providing high impact effective learning opportunities for students....
- Establishes connections with businesses and industries that recognize the need to prepare HS students to be career and college-ready with essential problem solving and communication skills.



**Delivering
distinctive,
learner-centered
experiences
since 1890**

- 65 undergraduate programs
- 13:1 faculty-to-student ratio
- Ranked "Best Colleges" for 23 consecutive years by U.S. News
- Ranked "Most Beautiful Campus in North Dakota" by BuzzFeed
- 21% growth in headcount in 10 years
- National Register of Historic Places
- Capital campaign underway

- Thank you for the opportunity to share the story of Valley City State University today.
- In our presentation today I will be discussing the past present and future of Valley City State including academic and athletic success, new academic initiatives and programs, university finances, and future plans.
- Founded in 1890 as a normal school, VCSU remains true to its heritage and has an outstanding reputation for producing some of the finest K-12 educators in the region.
- VCSU enhances the learning experience by providing full-time students with access to their own laptop, advanced multimedia technology, high-speed wireless networking, and classrooms equipped with the latest educational technology. A student-faculty ratio of 13:1 gives students one-to-one access to faculty in ways that are impossible at other universities.
- The 55-acre campus is bordered on the south by a forested hillside and on the north by the Sheyenne River. Campus architecture features a graceful blend of historic and modern buildings. The central campus is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a Historic District, and in May 2017, BuzzFeed named VCSU's campus the most beautiful college campus in North Dakota.
- Thank you for your service to the citizens of North Dakota. We do not take that support for granted, and we are very cognizant of the complex decisions you must make. We are grateful for your support, and we focus our efforts on being good stewards of the resources you entrust to us.

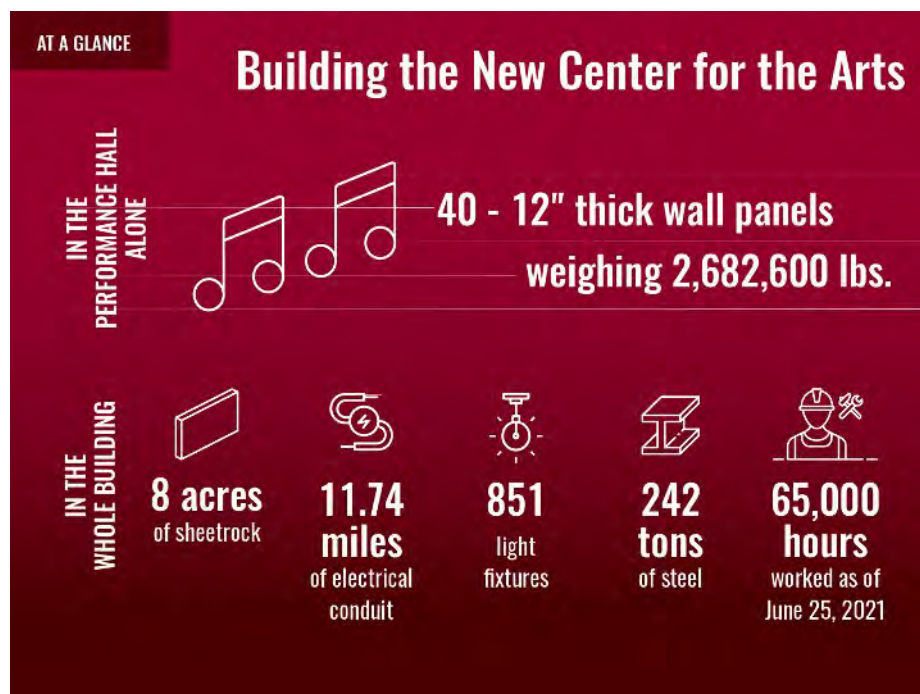


Continued enrollment growth demonstrates the commitment to and success in recruiting

- Fall 2020 our headcount = 1,676 students (1541 undergraduates).
- North Dakota students comprise almost 70% of our student body.
- Not only have our enrollments increased each year, but the academic profile of our entering students has improved as well.
- In 2019, VCSU had the highest retention rate (73%) of all the 4-year regionals in ND.



- Center for the Arts is nearing completion, thank you for your support!
- We are scheduled to open on January 2022
- This space will provide outstanding educational and performance opportunities for all students
- There will be an opportunity to tour the facility later this afternoon.





- Valley City State University is ranked fourth among Midwest public regional colleges in the 2021 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings.
- VCSU has now been named a U.S. News “Best College” for 23 consecutive years, and the university has been ranked as one of the top Midwest public regional colleges each year since 2010.



Covid Response and Impact

- Previous investments helped our preparation for a worldwide pandemic
- CARES Act
 - PPE
 - Facilities
 - Training

- The COVID 19 pandemic caused us to go into a temporary remote leaning mode.
- This move was very easy for VCSU. We have been a leader in this arena for years.
- Our faculty are very skilled in this technology.



Technology Successes

- Implemented mobile device management (MDM) software, which vastly improves our cybersecurity posture
- Deployed Wi-Fi 6 for improved bandwidth on campus for media streaming, academic apps, and online classes
- Every classroom now has upgraded video cameras and mics for instant online classroom communication

We have also included multiple technology improvements to ensure we stay on the leading edge.

- Implemented mobile device management (MDM) software, which vastly improves our cybersecurity posture
- Deployed Wi-Fi 6 for improved bandwidth on campus for media streaming, academic apps, and online classes
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Student Satisfaction

- NDUS Satisfaction Survey

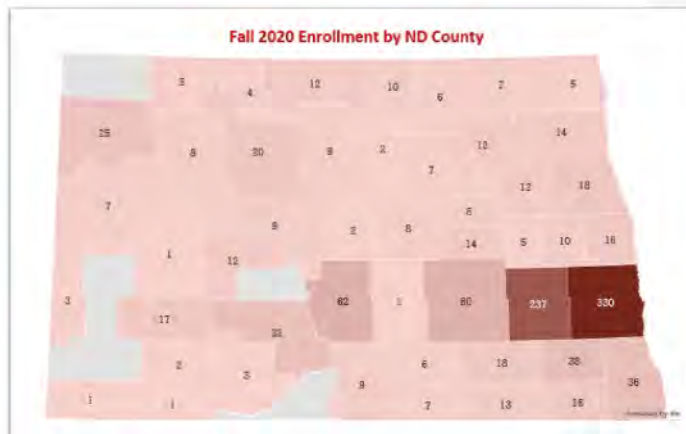
| | 2020 General Satisfaction | 2021 General Satisfaction | 2021 COVID Era Satisfaction |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Community Colleges | 4.0 | 3.8 | 3.3 |
| Regional Colleges | 4.0 | 3.9 | 3.3 |
| Research | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.1 |
| VCSU | 4.1 | 4.0 | 3.6 |


STATE UNIVERSITY

Our efforts focus on student success, and that is shown in the student satisfaction surveys completed by NDUS.

North Dakota Success

Almost 70% of all
VCSU **students** are
from North Dakota
Almost 70% of
freshman are from
North Dakota



- 69.2% of all VCSU students are from North Dakota
- 68.7% of freshman are from our state



Accreditations

- Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)
- American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
- Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE)
- National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)
- IACBE – International Accreditation Council for Business Education (in process)



Recognition from external accreditation organizations confirms the excellence of our institution and programs. We will continue to strive to meet the standards set forth by these various agencies to further measure and validate our success.

HLC – The Higher Learning Commission is a composite institutional accreditation that examines every aspect of the institution to ensure standards are met.

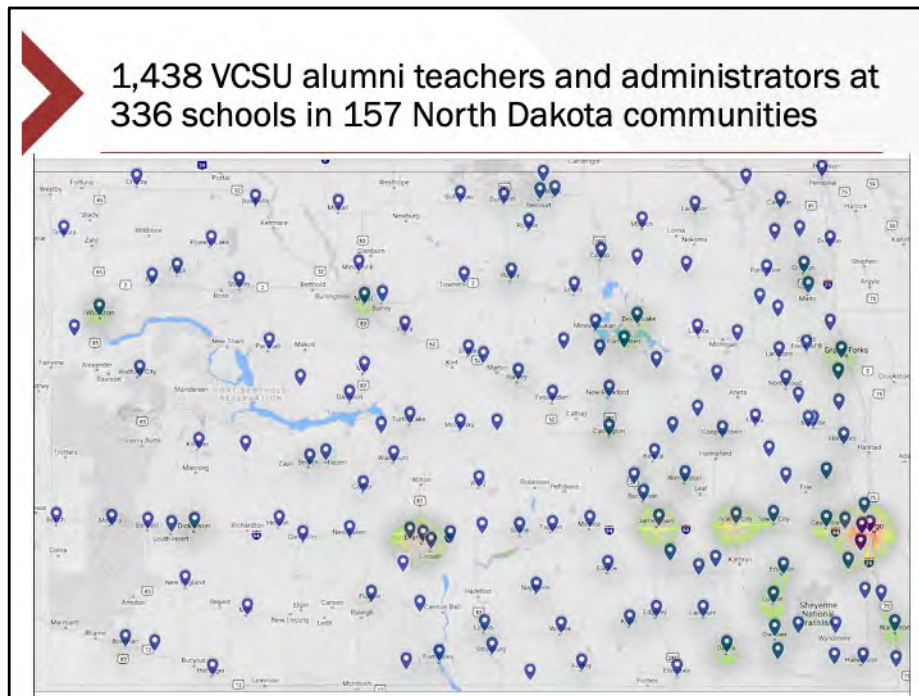
- Finances
 - Facilities/Physical Plant
 - Athletics
 - Student Affairs
 - Operations
-
- The other five accreditation bodies listed on this slide are programmatic/content area national accreditations which confirm our quality in these programs through extensive self-study processes, accepted national standards, and on-site review visits.



History of Excellence and Excellence in Education

- 130 years of service to the state
- Training teachers who are serving all over North Dakota, the U.S. and abroad
- Elementary Education majors created “Viking Time” (for virtual caring and support)





As this slide powerfully indicates:

- Our founding mission in 1890 was to prepare teachers for North Dakota, and although we've broadened our academic horizons, we've never lost sight of that original goal. VCSU remains at the forefront of teacher preparation programs.
- 1,438 VCSU alumni serve as licensed teachers and administrators in 336 schools and educational units serving 157 communities throughout ND.
- This is a significant point of pride for VCSU and we pledge to continue to meet the important need for teachers in the state, especially in some of the critical need areas such as math, science, and music education.



Dr. Allen Burgad
Dean of Education



VCSU Education Majors



Elementary Education Major

- Minor or endorsement options in Early Childhood, ELL, Kindergarten, Middle School, Reading, Special Education, and STEM

Secondary Education Majors

- Biology, Chemistry, Physical Science, English, Physical Education, Health Education, Mathematics, Music, Art, Business, Career and Technical Education, Technology Education, History, and Social Science

Our Education program has been accredited since 1954.

All programs met state program approval in the spring of 2021 through the North Dakota Education Standards and Practice Board. VCSU will complete Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP) in fall of 2022.



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History of the Education Program

| Academic Year | Students Graduating from Education Program |
|---------------|--|
| 2012-13 | 132 |
| 2013-14 | 139 |
| 2014-15 | 134 |
| 2015-16 | 130 |
| 2016-17 | 118 |
| 2017-18 | 144 |
| 2018-19 | 169 |
| 2019-20 | 149 |

~ **275 students** enrolled in education program annually
 ~ Two years to complete typical education program



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Vision and Mission of VCSU's Education Program

- VCSU strives to prepare teacher candidates for authentic classroom teaching by exposing them to real-world teaching experiences. Job placement after graduation is a priority at VCSU.
- Teacher candidates are also required to complete at least one endorsement, certificate, or minor in high need areas such as kindergarten, ELL, special education, Music K-12, or STEM education to their Elementary Education major.



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Student Teacher Exit Survey

- Fall 2011 to Spring 2021
 - Would you recommend your teacher education program to other prospective teachers?



| | Total | Percent |
|----------------|-------|---------|
| Definitely Yes | 895 | 75.5% |
| Probably Yes | 261 | 22.0% |
| Probably No | 25 | 2.1% |
| Definitely No | 5 | 0.4% |
| Total | 1186 | |



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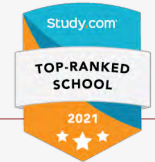
Top-ranked Elementary Education Program in the Nation



Best Bachelor's in Elementary Education Degree Programs compiled at Study.com. The rankings list 50 schools nationwide, including several universities in the Midwest.

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Field and Practicum Experiences



Program successful due to the required 150 hours of various field experiences prior to completing a twelve-week student teaching experience.



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Substitute Teaching Program

- **Partners**
 - Valley City Public School,
 - West Fargo Public Schools
 - Fargo Public Schools
- **Benefits for Partners**
 - Address substitute shortage
 - Enable districts to provide embedded professional development
 - Prepare future educators


Goals of Program

VCSU pre-service teachers have authentic field experiences preparing them for student teaching and future careers by:

- Applying effective classroom management
- Establishing skills to build student relationships
- Being exposed to school and district policies
- Planning and implementing lessons
- Reflection and opportunity to grow as educators with feedback provided by VCSU faculty
- Connections to district administration and educators advancing future career opportunities.

Program originated under the leadership of Dean Sheri Okland


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"Survey data from North Dakota schools found that 97.8% either 'agree' or 'tend to agree' that VCSU first-year teachers effectively teach the subject matter in his/her licensure area."

Dr. Alan Olson, VCSU Ed. Professor

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The image is a composite. The left side shows a group of people, likely students, wading in a river, engaged in a research project. The right side is a portrait of a young man, Shane Hitch, wearing a suit and tie.

VCSU fisheries and wildlife students helped relocate mussel bed in major research project

VCSU computer science and software engineering student Shane Hitch became 1 of 8 interns at NASA and played a key role as a security expert

Preparing Students for the Workforce and Benefitting the Community

- VCSU students helped relocate mussel bed in major research project
- VCSU student Shane Hitch became 1 of 8 interns at NASA and played a key role as a cybersecurity expert

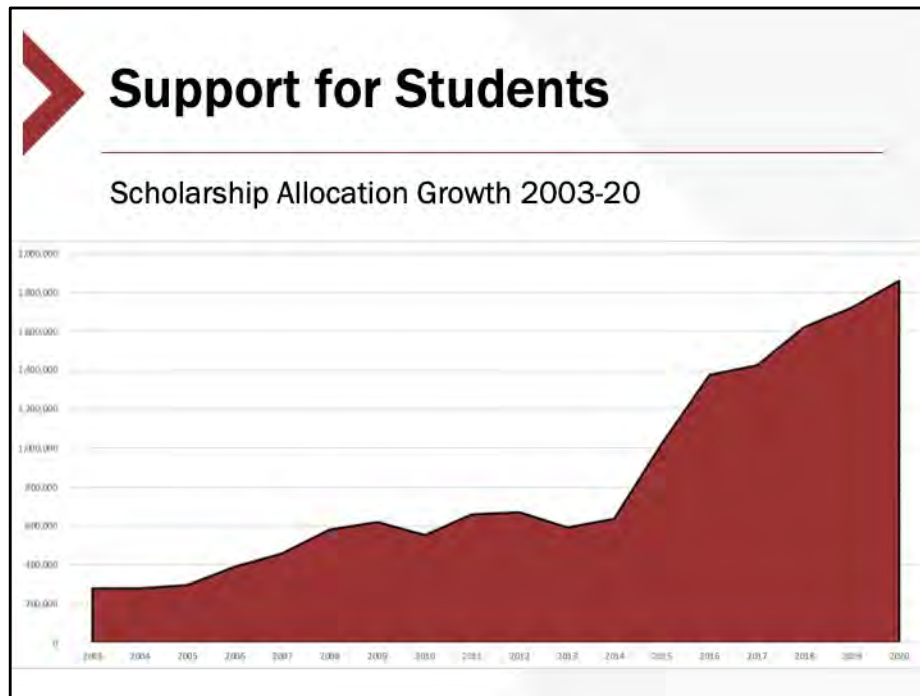


Direct experience in a work setting related to their academic interests provides students a means to develop their skills and explore career opportunities. Internships are available to both on-campus and online/distance students; at VCSU, 87 percent of student interns serve North Dakota employers.

VCSU students do well in their internship experience; follow-up surveys show that 97 percent of the students would be recommended for full-time employment by their internship supervisor.



Cory Anderson
Director of University Advancement



Foundation

It's my pleasure to present for you today on behalf of the VCSU Foundation.

I want to acknowledge special recognition to Larry Robinson for his leadership of the Foundation since 1996. The facts I will be sharing with you are largely because of Larry. He will tell you it's a team, and while that is accurate, every Super Bowl champion needs a quarterback calling the play. The Foundation has and will continue to be...passionate about moving VCSU forward and continuing to impact generations for years.

We have experienced a 25% growth over the last 10 years – that 'Good' problem has led to overcrowded conditions – causing a tipping point in our vision for the future.

In that time – we have developed an attractive and significant scholarship program at VCSU.

You witnessed the enrollment growth earlier – that movement was made possible as our assets moved from \$4.9 million in 2010 to more than \$14 million 10 years later. By comparison, in 2010 we allocated \$551,000 in scholarships.

The past year that number moved to \$1.86 million...making VCSU not only the best institution to attend, but the most affordable.



Capital Campaign

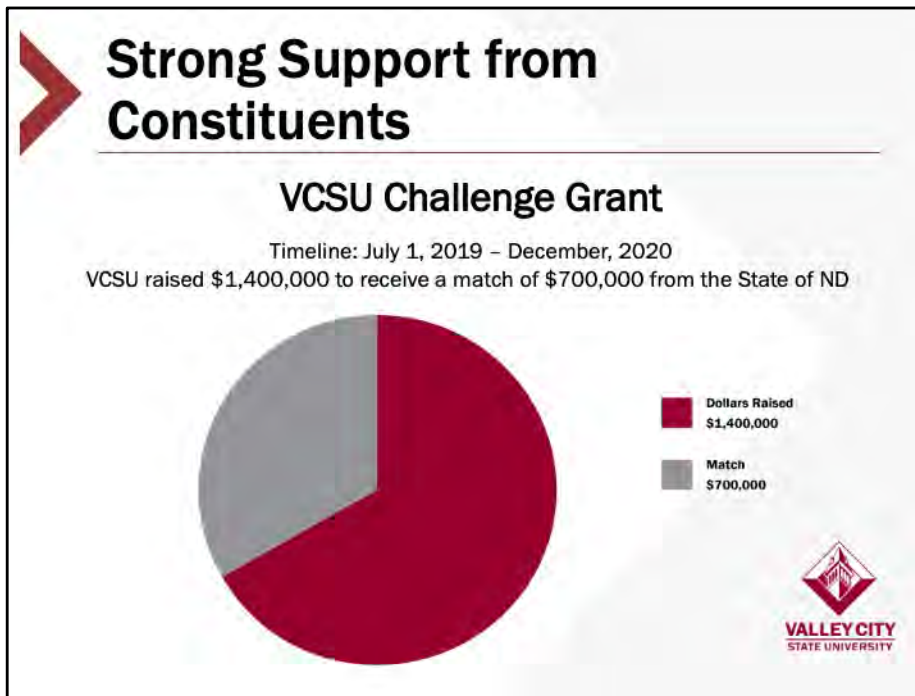
The second part of our vision was launching our first ever Capital Campaign to enhance our facilities for students. The campaign will be a 2-phase project with a \$25 million goal

The first phase involves expansion of athletic facilities that we have outgrown and will move us to reflect who we are as a university

The second phase included a renovation of McCarthy Hall into the School of Education and a renovation of the Student Center

The campaign is off to a great start with \$3 million raised to date and an anticipated \$3 million additional by Fall – we are active with about 80 prospects currently and have another 200 in the next 18 months.

Our graduates, by nature of their education, move on to impact more people in a day than most do in a year. We need the facilities to impact generations the same way our people do.



The Challenge Grant:

- VCSU raised \$1.4 million to receive a match of \$700,000 from the state of ND for the Challenge Grant that ended in December of 2020.
- In the new Challenge Grant that started July 1, 2021 – we have raised \$275,000 towards our goal of \$1.4 million to reach by the end December 2022.
- **There's never been a better time to be a Viking. The university we cherish is growing and our brand is strong and trending with big things on the horizon. Yes...our aim is BIG and our goals are BOLD but how can you not be passionate about being a Viking and impacting inspiration.**



Rural School Partner Benefit Program

- Assists rural ND schools attract & retain their teacher workforce
- Waivers for teachers pursuing a Masters
- Finalized in 2019
- VCSU reduces rates for district teachers pursuing graduate credits for dual-credit certification or master's programs
- Districts provide field experiences and student-teacher placements and assessments for VCSU preservice teachers


- It is a partnership between regional school districts and VCSU to assist rural North Dakota schools attract and retain their teacher workforce
- We offer waivers for teachers pursuing a Masters by providing 50% of the tuition
- Discussions on this program began in 2018 and finalized in 2019
- VCSU reduces rates for district teachers pursuing graduate credits for dual-credit certification or master's programs
- Districts provide field experiences and student-teacher placements and assessments for VCSU preservice teachers
- Districts assist with teacher preparation through participation in panel discussions, mock interviews and guest speaker presentations on campus
- First two programs started in Lisbon High School and Valley City High School in 2018, added Central Cass, Kindred, Elgin/New Leipzig in 2019



Indians into STEM (INSTEM) Partnership

- New initiative to provide hands on, highly engaging activities that help encourage Native Americans to pursue college education
- Plan to develop vision, project outcomes, assessment measures in spring 2021
- Forming stakeholder steering committee
- Continue Middle School STEM Academy at VCSU in summer 2021 as transition to INSTEM project

- The intent of this project is to provide the hands on, highly engaging activities, that can be used to help encourage Native Americans to pursue college education and particularly in STEM disciplines, where they are under-represented
- This initiative, just underway this year, is the Indians in STEM partnership
- Initial and developmental conversations between Lisa Lone Flight with the Mandan, Hidatsu and Arikira nation and Dr. Jamie Wirth (Director of the VCSU Great Plains STEM Education Center) have occurred
- The plan is to develop the vision, project outcomes and assessment measures by spring 2021 and form a stakeholder steering committee
- This project is a natural continuation for VCSU of the Middle School STEM Academy held on our campus each summer




New Academic Programs

Digital Design Program

- Provides students with a well-rounded digital design experience
- Students gain skills in visual communication, creative problem-solving, and an understanding of the theories of visual communication
- Students can pursue graphic design, digital imaging, photography and illustration, web design, and time-based art.

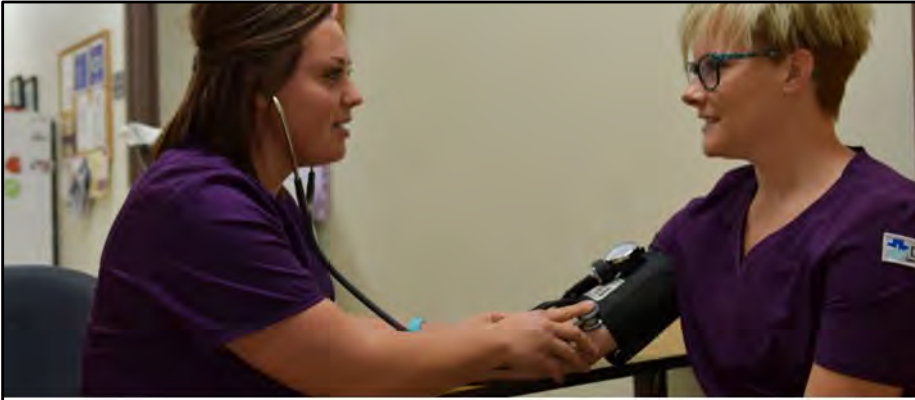
- The digital design program provides students with a well-rounded digital design experience as they engage in real-world design opportunities.
- Students gain an understanding of the theories of visual communication, principles of design, and creative problem-solving in preparation for professional positions.



New Academic Programs
Sound Production Program

- Expecting growth once Center for the Arts is complete
- Draws a creative and highly capable student population into the area
- Value-added skill for Music Teacher Preparation Program

- The Sound Production Program is expected to grow once Center for the Arts is complete
- The program draws a creative and highly capable student population into the area
- Value-added skill for Music Teacher Preparation Program



**Partnering for
Academic
Success**

Nursing

- Participating in the Dakota Nursing Program through a partnership with the Dakota College at Bottineau.
- Students can earn their Practical Nurse (PN) certificate or Associate Degree in Nursing (AND)

- This is an important option to help increase the number of trained nurses in North Dakota.
- This program highlights the partnerships we have built with other state schools




Helping Students Earn Degrees in Accelerated Ways

Three Year Graduates

- Students who excel in their coursework finish a full year early
- Students can enter the workforce sooner, save on tuition, room and board and contribute to the economic growth of the state quickly.

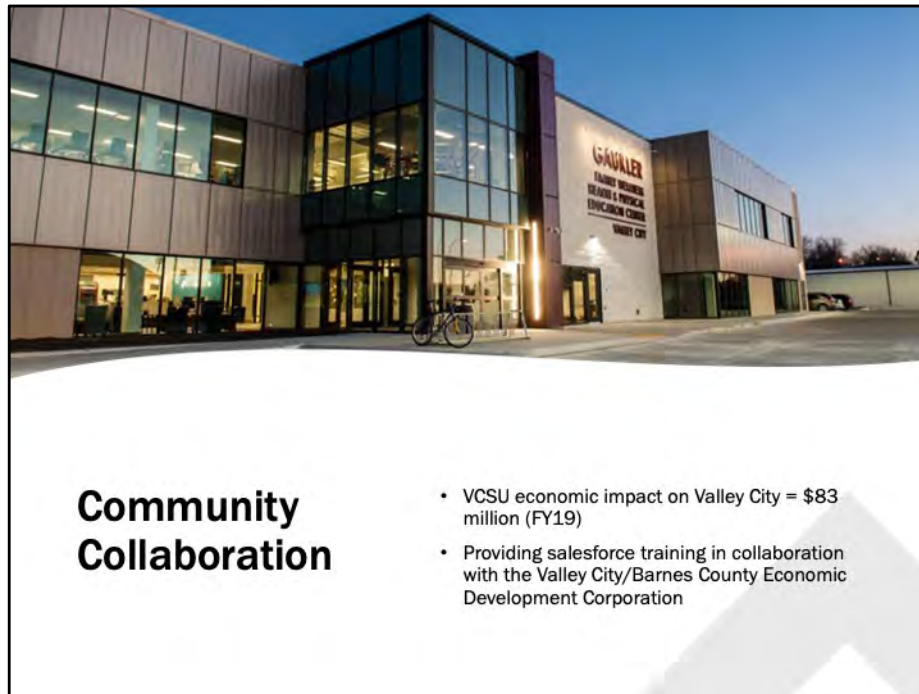
- In May at our spring 2020 commencement ceremony, we recognized 17 students who completed graduation requirements in less than 4 years; 11 more who accomplished this same feat were recognized at winter 2020 commencement in December.
- These highly motivated students typically bring credits with them from high school, and with the help of faculty advisors, they're able to chart an accelerated path to completion of their VCSU degrees.
- We are proud to be able to support and assist these high achieving students by faculty and academic advisors helping plan an accelerated path to completion of their VCSU degree....
- Not only does this reduce the amount of student cost/debt, but it gets them out into the WORKFORCE a year earlier, saving significantly on tuition, room & board and other expenses and contributing to the overall economic growth of our state.



Career and Technical Education (CTE)

- Works with Trade, Industry, and Allied Health professionals getting them certified to teach their respective occupations.
- Seeks to actively recruit, train and retain Trade, Industry and Allied Health Teachers in North Dakota.
- Recognized as one of the leading programs in the United States.
- 43 graduates over the last 5 years.

- Career and Technical Education program at VCSU works with Trade, Industry, and Allied Health professionals getting them certified to teach their respective occupations.
- The program is in a partnership with North Dakota Department of Career and Technical Education to provide meaningful professional development and to actively recruit, train and retain Trade, Industry and Allied Health Teachers in North Dakota.



Importance of community collaboration is a significant factor in our success!

- Recent economic impact study by NDUS indicated VCSU contributed \$83 million to the Valley city community and region in fiscal year 2019.
- Gaukler Wellness Center is a wonderful example of a recent success story in the collaboration efforts among numerous community constituents, financial institutions, donors and the university to
- Have a vision for a world class facility.
- Work together to realize the development and successful completion of this facility.
- This is a significant point of pride for the community and example of the university and community working together
- Just as the historic walk bridge connecting the university to the community is both a real and symbolic connection and demonstration of our strong town/gown relationship, we pledge to strengthen those bonds as we continue to move forward.



Community Collaboration

- Partnering with Valley City/Barnes County Economic Development Corporation to help efforts in job creation and workforce needs
- Partnership with Valley City on COVID-19 testing
- Rural school collaboration with neighboring towns
- Subbing program in the Valley City school district
- Partnership with the Dakota College of Nursing

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Affordability

- Granted authority for a 4% increase
 - Our Fall 2019 increase was 3%
- Meal plans only increased by 1.75% this year and 3% the year before
- Decreased student technology fee by 10% in 2019. No increase since then.
- Room rates were kept even for Fall 2020 to help students
- Valley City State University remains one of the most affordable colleges in North Dakota and the Midwest
- With the use of Open Educational Resources, VCSU students have saved more than \$1.5 million in textbook costs since Spring Semester 2016

Affordable tuition and fees helps address the rising student debt crisis.

Through the use of Open Educational Resources, VCSU students have saved more than \$1.5 million in textbook costs since Spring Semester 2016

In 2020, VCSU had the highest retention rate (72% for first-time full-time students) and the highest 4-year graduation rate (26%) of all the 4-year regionals in ND. “

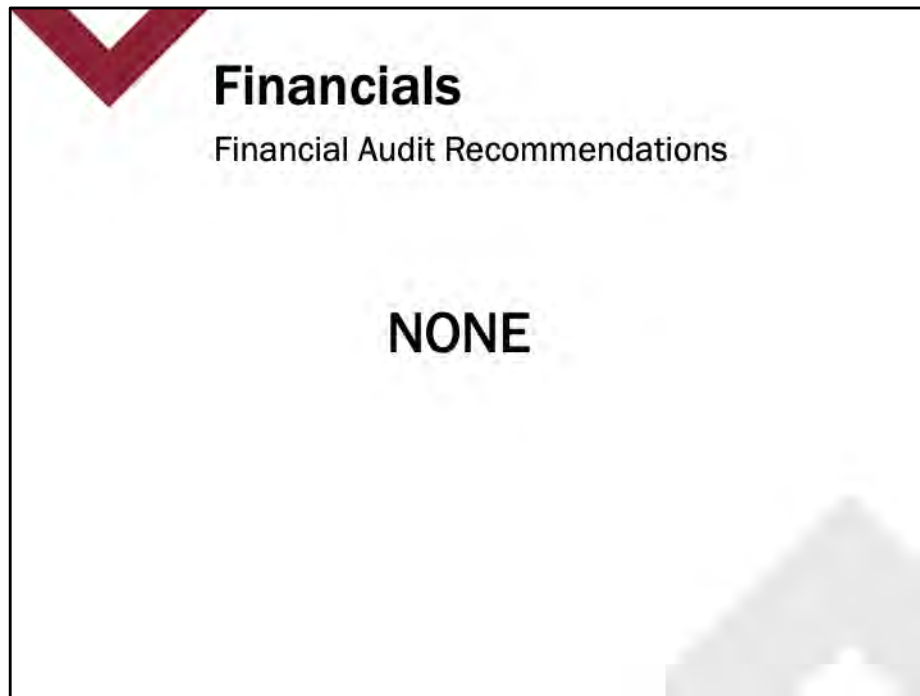


Financials

- Thank you for supporting needs-based budget
- Thank you for supporting changes to the funding formula

- We support the New Funding Formula bill.
- As noted previously, the existing funding formula would cut our general fund by \$860 thousand. For us, this felt like we are being penalized for growth. We worked with the interim higher ed committee and NDUS to come up with a solution that addresses these concerns. The new formula increased our base budget to \$24,161,377– A positive difference of \$1,502,444 from the needs-based budget proposal.
- Thank you for supporting staff and faculty by approving the raises for our team last session.





- VCSU has no financial audit findings in the last biennium.



Financials Federal Funding for COVID-19

COVID Dollars through 6.30.21

| | Funded | Spent |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| COVID CARES and FIPSE Federal dollars | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |
| Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) through state Emergency Commission | \$740,353 | \$679,206 |
| Governor's Emergency Relief Funds (GEERF) | \$85,096 | \$80,979 |
| NDUS/CTS Funds | \$7,430 | \$7,430 |
| CRRSAA | \$868,060 | \$226,471 |
| ARP | \$2,046,130 | - |
| Total | \$4,247,069 | \$1,494,086 |

- We have received authorization for over \$2.2 million in federal dollars for COVID response.
- \$500,000 came from the CARES act and FIPSE. 100% of this money was given to students as direct grants or refunds for housing and board plans when they left campus in the middle of spring semester last year.
- We have received authorization for \$740K in CRF dollars through the emergency commission. These funds were used for PPE, paying for additional nurses to manage healthcare on campus, cleaning and sanitizing equipment, technology upgrades, and air filtration systems.
- We also received \$85,096 in GEER dollars which we used to update technology in our classrooms, allowing every classroom on campus to be used both in class and synchronously online for our students.
- There were also some funds to help purchase software through CTS and training for our faculty.
- In December, we were awarded an additional \$868 thousand, of which at least \$226 thousand must be directly distributed to students. We have a plan in place and these funds should be distributed in the next weeks.
- We are working on awarding the ARP funds now.



The L.D. Rhoades Science Center, originally built in 1973, underwent an intensive renovation and expansion, with construction beginning in November 2011.

The 27,000 sq. ft. expansion was put into service in January 2013, and the 33,000 sq. ft. renovation of existing space was completed in August 2013. The project, supported by the State Board of Higher Education, Governor Jack Dalrymple, and the North Dakota Legislature, was funded by a \$10.3 million appropriation in the 2011 North Dakota legislative session.

Housed in Rhoades Science Center are classrooms, laboratories and offices for the VCSU science and math departments, and offices and facilities for the university's information technology services. The Great Plains STEM Education Center is also housed in the building, as is VCSU's collaborative nursing program with Dakota College at Bottineau. The first major capital construction project for an academic facility at VCSU in 40 years, the construction and renovation of Rhoades Science Center was delivered on time and at budget. The building features a new heating, ventilating and air-conditioning system, along with new mechanical and electrical systems. To the extent possible, the design and construction of the Rhoades addition and renovation followed standards set forth by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design

(LEED). VCSU has applied for and is anticipating LEED certification for the building. Rhoades Science Center is named for L.D. "Dusty" Rhoades, who taught chemistry and physics at VCSU from 1919 to 1961.



Built in 1907, Vangstad currently houses several classrooms and offices for the Division of Business and Information Technology, IVN classrooms, and an 800-seat auditorium.

The renovation included

- Update classroom, office, and study facilities for the Division of Business and Information Technology and bring all offices into ADA compliance.
- Consolidate the Learning Center and student support services from several locations around campus into a single, better equipped location.
- Create north and south entry plazas for ADA accessibility and compliance with building codes.
- Update windows, perimeter drainage, and brick to extend the life of the building and improve energy efficiency.
- Replace mechanical systems including air handling, heating, cooling, plumbing, and electrical.
- Update building systems including lighting (interior and exterior), fire alarm, data systems, and security.
- Repair plasterwork, floors, and ceiling, and replace seating in auditorium.

Heat Plant



The new VCSU heat plant east of Rhoades Science Center was funded by an appropriation received from the North Dakota Legislature in its 2015 session.

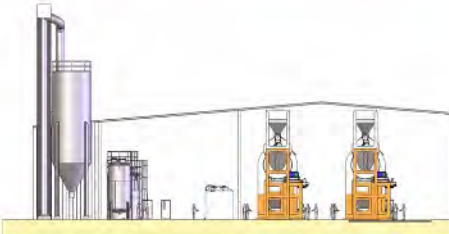
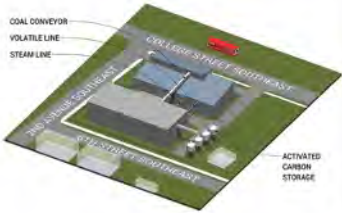
The new plant replaced an outdated facility constructed in 1910. The legislature recognized that the old power plant threatened VCSU campus safety and security, and the proposal received the requested \$14.3 million in funding. After reductions from the budget allotments, a new \$13.9 million heat plant was constructed.

The old power plant was demolished in June 2017, and the new heat plant came on line for the 2017–18 heating season.


The new plant was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 3, 2018. The heat plant features three energy-efficient boilers with combined capability of utilizing natural gas, coal, and fuel oil. With expanded capacity to accommodate future campus growth, the new plant requires less maintenance and labor, and operates significantly more efficiently than its predecessor.

The heat plant was also designed with the potential for an exciting addition—an environmentally friendly activated carbon plant.

➤ Ongoing Work to Establish the Activated Carbon Plant

- Construction and design team in place
- Favorable feasibility study is completed
- Currently working with financial managers for bond sales



Progress is still being made on the activated carbon plant. It has taken longer than we anticipated, but we are being true to our promise to walk forward carefully to ensure a successful venture.

Selection of the team has been completed:

- Architect - JLG
- Engineer – Obermiller Nelson Engineering
- Constuction Manager at Risk – Construction Engineers
- Sales and Distribution – Thatcher Chemicals
- 3rd Party Feasibility study – Barr Engineering
- Financial Management and Bond Sales - PFM
- 3rd party feasibility study has now been completed with a favorable recommendation for the project.

We are working with our financial management firm to complete final steps before the bond sale, which include organizing documents, and streamlining the feasibility study and business plan in a presentation to investors.

What this can do for our students in learning and research opportunities is highly impactful...and the plant will utilize ND lignite coal as feed stock, provide an environmentally friendly solution to power needs and ultimately be revenue generating.



At VCSU, we deliver distinctive, learner centered experiences in an environment defined by quality and innovation. **Thank you for supporting the NDUS needs based budget and the interim higher education recommendation for a new funding formula.** Moving forward – We pledge to

- **Continue being responsive to the needs of the students, community and state.**
 - In the process of updating our strategic plan
- We pledge to keep the cost of attendance affordable
- Continued emphasis on QUALITY – in and out of the classroom
- Continued emphasis on GROWTH – strategic planned and targeted growth
- Continued collaboration and development of partnerships that address important workforce development initiatives

THANK YOU! This capture the sentiments of our entire institution and community. Thank you for providing this opportunity for VCSU!
Our Record of success is evident.

- So - - to wrap up - - I'm so very EXCITED and HONORED to be a part of the future of Valley City State University and our significance to the community, state and region. I envision VCSU as a continued leader in innovation, quality and distinction and am confident we will continue to make a tremendous positive impact throughout the community, state and region!
- We ALL continue to ROW! Any questions?